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# F. C. BURNS DAHLIAS, DELPHINIUM

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Department of Agriculture

SAN RAFAEL - CALIFORNIA

1926



## DELPHINIUM

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The Delphinium is a hardy perennial and a old garden favorite. Their brilliant flower spikes arrest your attention even at a distance. The foliage is attractive and the plants strong and neat in habit. By keeping the plants well watered and the flowers cut a second crop of bloom may be had and in some localities a third. After years of crossing and selection I eliminated the darker shades and obtained plants showing perfectly double flowers with a tendency to be frilled. From these plants I have fixed a new strain which is very robust, has excellent branching habits and is very rarely affected with mildew.

The colors are indeed difficult to described. All shades of blue and lavender pink are included, forming a wonderful combination rarely seen in the floral world except in the orchid. In the cut of the Burns Delphinium shown in this issue, shows one of the seed parents of this strain. The outer row of petals are light blue, and the inner row lavender pink—an altogether ideal combination. Most people never realize the charming beauty and valuable decorative qualities of these wonderful flowers until they have personally arranged them or seen their appeal when the florist's art properly presents it. I prefer to use the lighter shades, especially the lavender blue types, for they harmonize in decorative work with any style or color effect of a given room. I use them in combinations with many flowers, preferably the loose types. They always make a well balanced design in the garden, yet will lose their artistic charm if placed among formal companions. In fact, a few well placed Delphinium spikes always seem to emphasize the appeal of flowers when used in proper proportion.



LADY LILAC (Burns)



## CULTIVATION NOTES

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Under favorable conditions if the seed is planted early they will show small spikes the first year, but generally the best spikes are obtained the second and third years.

Sow the seed from March until September according to climatic conditions. Seed sown in July and August can be left in the boxes all winter and will make fine plants for bedding out in the spring. Level the seed soil, press it down firmly and proceed to plant the seeds. Sow thickly if intending to afterward flat the plants, or thinly if planned to stay in original box. Barely cover the seed. Practically every seed failure is due to too deep planting or to surface drying during germination stages. Germinating seeds need constant moisture and even temperature. Perhaps seed soil matters are the most important of all stages of growing plants from seed, and usually the least attended to. Proper seed soil, proper surface air conditions, proper moisture and drainage, and steady low temperatures will invariably provide every condition for germination of seeds of any kind.

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DELPHINIUM PLANTS can be transplanted very easily during their dormant season and after they are three years old they may be divided if the clumps are large enough; do not use the knife more than is necessary but try to break the crown apart. Plant them at the same level they were before, spreading the roots and pressing down firmly. Do not use any manure or fertilizer near the roots. Delphiniums are quick growing plants and need plenty of moisture and a moderate amount of fertilizer. When watering give a good soaking which keeps the roots down deep.

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Due to lack of space and time I have discontinued growing many of my recent introductions of Dahlias. Many of my past introductions such as the Grizzly, Sequoia, Buttercup, Mexico, etc., can be bought from any of the leading California growers.



SUMMER SKIES (Burns)



CALIFORNIA (Burns)  
BLUE KING



## NAMED VARIETIES

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### LILAC LADY—

A beautiful double flower with a pleasing combination of lilac and light blue. The flowers are large and well placed. This variety is very robust, growing to the height of six feet with a three foot spike, with many branching laterals.

Strong Plants—\$2.50 each.

### SUMMER SKIES—

This Delphinium has unusual color shading. The flowers are large and double. The outer edge of the petals are light blue shading to a darker blue in the center. Very free bloomer.

Strong plants—\$2.50 each.

### CALIFORNIA BLUE KING—

A very striking combination. The flowers are double and very large. The outer row of petals are a dark blue while the inner row is a very deep orchid. This is an unusual flower and will add to any collection. A strong growing plant.

Strong plants—\$2.50 each.

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## P L A N T S

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### BURNS HYBRID DELPHINIUM (mixed seedlings)—

One year old strong plants     -     -     \$3.00 per dozen

Two year old strong plants     -     -     \$6.00 per dozen

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## S E E D

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Our customers are the best judges of the merit in our Hybrid Delphiniums. Hundreds of testimonials tell us of superior blooms and of exceptionally good germinating qualities of this strain.

**\$1.00 per packet** containing about 500 seeds. The Burns Hybrid Delphinium seed is sold direct from the garden **only**.



QUEEN OF THE GARDEN BEAUTIFUL

# DAHLIAS

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## QUEEN OF THE GARDEN BEAUTIFUL (Burns)

A flower that fulfills the dream of Dahlia lovers. One of the largest of all Dahlias, measuring from nine to twelve inches across, and five to six inches deep, grown without forcing. The stems are unusually strong and it is a wonderful keeper.

The following is an extract from the San Francisco Examiner: "Frank C. Burns of San Rafael yesterday was awarded the Samuel W. Heller flower prize for the most meritorious Dahlia in the show being conducted at the Palace Hotel by the Dahlia Society of California. Ten growers were in competition for the most important flower prize ever awarded in this country. The prize was allocated to the Dahlia this year by the regents of the University of California, who also named Professors G. W. Gregg and W. A. Shepherd of the university horticultural department in collaboration with Carl Salbach and J. H. Hughes, named by the Dahlia Society. Burns' dahlia is a gigantic lemon-colored decorative type of bloom, named "Queen of the Garden Beautiful." It is a magnificent specimen and was pronounced a perfect type by the judges, scoring 94 points."

—Tubers: \$10.00 each

## THE MEADOW LARK (Burns)

In color it has shadings of buff and straw with the reverse side of the florets darker. The buds are long and rather pointed and the fully expanded flower is of large size and good keeping quality. The stems are extra long and straight with splendid foliage. This Dahlia is quite different from most novelties and sure to become very popular.

—Price: \$3.50 each

## THE ORIOLE (Burns)

One of my best peony Dahlias. The Oriole has a wonderful combination of Autumn shades, many of the flowers shading white at the tips. This Dahlia is exceptionally prolific, can be grown to a huge flower. Fine for cutting. I have a large stock of this variety and am offering it at a very reasonable price.

—Price: \$1.50 each

## DAHLIA SEED

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Much pleasure can be derived from growing Dahlia seed. Dahlias grow very easily from seed. Plant early, then transplant after danger of frost. They will make large plants the first year. New varieties are produced in this manner. Great care has been exercised in the selection of these seeds. Their record speaks for themselves. \$1.00 a package.

TERMS—All retail orders are delivered prepaid.

CASH—With order or in advance of shipment.

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## TESTIMONIALS

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Santa Rosa, California.

Dear Sir—We wish to compliment you on the fine germination of your Delphinium seed. The color of flowers and percentage of doubles obtained was so satisfactory that we discarded all other strains.

Yours very truly,  
WRIGHTS NURSERY

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Cedarhurst, New York

Dear Sir—Last year when at your place I saw your Delphiniums in bloom. I bought five packages of your seed and I am now enjoying a bit of California right here on Long Island. Talk about "blue blood"—you can see it in the vigor of the plants. Some of the flower stalks are now five feet tall. On the theory that you cannot have too much of a good thing, I am enclosing check for more seed.

Yours very truly,  
R. E. SEALY

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Lewiston, Idaho.

Dear Sir—I have about twenty-five of your plants now in their third year and they present a gorgeous sight. At a recent show I exhibited about fifty spikes from two to three feet in length and I wish you could have seen the visitors stop and marvel. I am saving and planting some of my own seed, but as I have other Delphiniums feel they will more or less mix and so want some more of your strain direct. Congratulating you on your success with the Delphinium, I am,

Yours very truly,  
R. G. BAILEY



THE MARIN JOURNAL



SAN RAFAEL, CALIF.